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| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br><br>(use as many sheets as necessary) |   | Application Number       | 10/730,233        |
|                                                                                                   |   | Filing Date              | December 8, 2003  |
|                                                                                                   |   | First Named Inventor     | Fathi H. Ghorbel  |
|                                                                                                   |   | Group Art Unit           | 3617              |
|                                                                                                   |   | Examiner Name            | R. J. McCarty Jr. |
| Sheet                                                                                             | 1 | of                       | 1                 |
|                                                                                                   |   | Attorney Docket Number   | 1789-08603        |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |              |                               |                                |                                                    |                                                                                 |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Examiner<br>Initials* | Cite<br>No.† | Document Number               | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant<br>of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
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## \* CITED IN PARENT CASE

\*EXAMINER: Initial reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard St.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached. The collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO in process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 123 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete including gathering, preparing and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORM TO THIS ADDRESS. Send To Commissioner For Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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|                                                                                                   |                        | Examiner Name            | R.J. McCreary Jr. |
| Sheet 9 of 9                                                                                      | Attorney Docket Number | 1789-08603               |                   |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |                       |                                                                         |                                |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Examiner Initials*       | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document                                                 | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant<br>of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear | T <sup>6</sup> |
|                          |                       | Country Code <sup>1</sup> Number + Kind Code <sup>2</sup><br>(if known) |                                |                                                    |                                                                                 |                |
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| OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS |                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |  |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| Examiner Initials*                                | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. |  |  |
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|                                                   |                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |  |
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|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------|
| Examiner Signature |  | Date Considered | 7/05 |
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